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COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION

AT RICHMOND, NOVEMBER 26, 2002

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA, ex rel.,

STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION

v.

CASE NO. PUE-1999-00436

COLUMBIA GAS OF VIRGINIA, INC.

ORDER GRANTING EXTENSION

On April 20, 2000, the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") entered an Order of Settlement relative to a number of alleged violations of the Commission's minimum gas pipeline safety standards¹, involving Columbia Gas of Virginia, Inc. ("Columbia", "CGV", or "the Company"). In Undertaking Paragraph (2)(d) found on page 8 of the April 20, 2000 Order, Columbia committed to remediate through replacement or other appropriate means mains located in the following Company operating areas: Gainesville (286 feet), Fredericksburg (222 feet), Chester (300 feet), and Lynchburg (4,425 feet). CGV further committed to remediate any other main exposed due to weather or other unplanned conditions ("unplanned exposures")

¹ In Case No. PUE-1989-00052, the Commission adopted parts 191, 192, 193 and 199 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations to serve as minimum gas pipeline safety standards in Virginia.

within 12 months of the discovery of the exposure during the three year period following the entry of the April 20, 2000 Order. Ordering Paragraph (5) of the April 20, 2000 Order of Settlement provided that CGV timely commence, maintain, and complete the programs and undertakings as set forth on pages 6-8 of that Order.

Since the entry of the April 20, 2000 Order of Settlement, the Commission extended the time in which the Company's corrosion control consultant CORRPRO Companies, Inc. ("CORRPRO") could review and audit Columbia's corrosion control program in the August 31, 2000 Order Granting Motion. In its August 27, 2001 Order Modifying Dates, the Commission extended the time in which CGV must correct the deficiencies noted in CORRPRO's final report as well as the date by which Columbia must tender a notarized affidavit signed by appropriate corporate official certifying that the Company has corrected the deficiencies noted in CORRPRO's report. In that same Order, the Commission also extended the date by which the Company had to report to the Commission on the actions and expenditures it had taken to investigate, locate, and acquire various Customer Owned Service Lines.

On November 20, 2002, CGV filed a Motion with the Commission in which the Company requested an extension of time to comply with Ordering Paragraph (5) of the April 20, 2000

Order. In support of its Motion, CGV noted that it discovered and logged into its Work Management System an unplanned exposure of pipeline in the South River adjacent to The Hopeman Parkway ("Hopeman Parkway Exposure") in the Company's Staunton Operating Area. In accordance with the terms of the April 20, 2000 Order, the remediation of this exposure should be completed on or before November 27, 2002. The Company maintained that the specialized drilling equipment necessary for this project could not be obtained and scheduled for use until after November 27, 2002. The Company requested an extension until January 31, 2003, in which to remediate the Hopeman Parkway Exposure.

On November 22, 2002, the Staff ("Staff") of the State Corporation Commission filed its Response to CGV's November 20, 2002 Motion. In its Response, Staff expressed concerns about the timeliness of CGV's Motion for Extension to remediate the line it had discovered on November 28, 2001. Staff noted that it had requested additional information from Columbia about the Hopeman Parkway Exposure and the work schedule for CGV's unplanned exposure remediation activities. While Staff did not oppose CGV's Motion, it requested leave to investigate the facts surrounding this unplanned exposure as well as CGV's compliance with the commitments and directives set out in the April 20, 2000 Order of Settlement, as that Order has been amended.

NOW, UPON CONSIDERATION of the foregoing, the Commission is of the opinion and finds that CGV's November 20, 2002 Motion for Extension of Time to Comply with Commission Order should be granted; that the time in which CGV may complete the remediation of the Hopeman Parkway Exposure shall be extended to January 31, 2003; that the provisions of the April 20, 2000 Order shall remain in effect; and that this matter shall be continued pending further Orders of the Commission.

Further, we share Staff's concerns about the timeliness of Columbia's actions with regard to the remediation of this Exposure and compliance with the April 20, 2000 Order of Settlement. Therefore, we will authorize the Staff to investigate the facts surrounding the remediation of the Hopeman Parkway Exposure and Columbia's compliance with the April 20, 2000 Order of Settlement. It is our expectation that the Company will cooperate fully with the Staff's investigation and that if the Staff's investigation discovers evidence that CGV is not complying with the provisions of the April 20, 2000 Order of Settlement as it has been amended, that Staff will so advise the Commission. We will then consider the options available to us to assure compliance with the provisions of the Order of Settlement.

Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED THAT:

- (1) CGV's November 20, 2002 Motion is hereby granted.

(2) The time in which Columbia shall complete the remediation of the Hopeman Parkway Exposure shall be extended to January 31, 2003.

(3) The Staff shall investigate the facts surrounding the Hopeman Parkway Exposure as well as CGV's compliance with the April 20, 2000 Order of Settlement, and shall report to the Commission any facts that demonstrate that CGV is not complying with the provisions of the April 20, 2000 Order of Settlement, as it has been amended.

(4) Columbia shall cooperate with the Staff as the Staff conducts the investigation required by Ordering Paragraph (3) herein.

(5) The provisions and directives of the April 20, 2000 Order of Settlement, as they have been further amended, shall remain in effect.

(6) This matter shall be continued, pending further Orders of the Commission.